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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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Over 300 Arrested for DUI in the First Four Months of *Checkpoint Strikeforce*

Dover - During the first four months of the 2008 “Checkpoint Strikeforce” campaign, Delaware law enforcement officers have arrested 302 individuals for DUI, including 12 during enforcement activities last weekend (Oct. 10th & 11th). Since the DUI enforcement and awareness campaign began on June 26th, officers from all participating agencies have also collectively issued 37 citations for underage drinking violations, apprehended 102 wanted individuals, made 141 drug arrests, 96 felony arrests, recovered 5 stolen vehicles and 8 weapons, issued 153 seat belt citations, 42 child restraint citation, and 1,201 citations for various other traffic violations.

Currently alcohol-related fatalities are down compared to this time last year. Since January 1st, alcohol has been listed as a factor in 34 (or 35%) of Delaware’s traffic deaths, compared to the same time frame in 2007 when 43 (or 46%) of the 93 traffic deaths that had occurred by October 14th involved alcohol.

Participating agencies in checkpoints occurring on Oct. 10th & 11th included the New Castle County DUI Task Force, the Dover Police Department and the Georgetown Police Department. In addition to last weekend’s 12 DUI arrests, officers issued one citation for an underage drinking violation, apprehended 3 wanted individuals, made 8 drug arrests, 6 felony arrests, issued 11 seat belt citations, 1 child restraint citation, and 57 citations for various other traffic violations.

Four sobriety checkpoints are scheduled for the coming weekend (October 17th & 18th). The following are the scheduled checkpoints:

Friday October 17th - NcCo County - NcCo DUI Task Force
Millsboro - Millsboro PD
Dover – DSP Troop 3
North of Newark – DSP Troop 1

Saturday October 18th – Lewes – DSP Troop 7
Red Lion – DSP Troop 9

The checkpoints are part of OHS's ongoing *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. Now in its seventh year, "Checkpoint Strikeforce" is a multi-state crackdown on impaired drivers coordinated locally by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety. Participating law enforcement agencies are conducting weekly DUI checkpoints through New Year's Eve, and monthly checkpoints in the spring, all with the goal of at deterring impaired drivers and arresting DUI offenders.

For weekly and ongoing campaign statistical updates please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* icon in the center of the page.

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